

## **Buckland Energy Committee**

**Meeting Minutes: 23 March 2020, 7:00 p.m., (held via Buckland Zoom account)**

**Present:** Committee Members: Ellen Kaufmann, Michael Novack, Penny Novack, Margaret Olin, Harvey Schaktman, Brian Summer

**Facilitator:** Margaret Olin

**Scribe:** Margaret Olin

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1. *Open the meeting.*
  2. *Review and approve minutes from 19 February 2020 meeting.*
    - Approved unanimously as written.
  3. *Discussion of solarize programs – past, present, & future – including state/federal incentives for residents, businesses, and municipalities, community solar initiatives; moving forward with awarded META Grant for Community Shared Solar feasibility study and approved proposal from Northeast Solar (currently in Phase 1)*
    - 04 March: several EC members went with Heather and Tom Kelly (NE Solar) to view 4 possible Town sites for Community Shared Solar project; Heather sent Tom information he requested; waiting for NES assessments
  4. *Discussion of local and regional energy-related issues, including:*
    - MCAP
    - Rail transport of fossil and other fuels; concerns about derailments, remaining railroad ties and debris along tracks
    - State-proposed energy legislation, including proposed “woodlands partnership”; response to Northern Pass; PACE Program & Green Works
    - Alternative electric power suppliers; regional municipal electricity aggregation plan updates
    - MassSave program updates
    - New Massachusetts programs: (through Mass CEC and DOER; Center for EcoTechnology --CET)
    - Municipal lighting/streetlights
    - Recycle-able/biodegradable plastic bags; single-use plasticss
- Trains now running again through Buckland (Hoosac Tunnel repair)
  - Recent Woodlands Partnership community informational meetings cancelled due to COVID-19 precautions; voiced support for Buckland BOH work on this issue
  - Municipal Electricity Aggregation Plan: Next virtual meeting with Colonial Power scheduled for 26 March; Margaret will attend
  - Mass Save: no updates
  - Buckland not eligible to apply for 2020 Green Community Grant: previous grant (streetlights) still not completed (no updates on progress of streetlight project); 2020 applications estimated to become available online in June 2020.

- Discussion of email from FRCOG (Bob Dean—12 March) regarding FC Energy Committees Coalition 10 March meeting presentation by Mike Condon (Massachusetts Clean Energy Center): community microgrids
  - No updates on plastics
5. *Update on past Green Communities Grant applications; planning for 2020*
- *continue discussion on potential projects to include in future applications, especially those that will bring us closer to the 20% reduction in energy use marker*
  - *DOER updates?*
  - No updates
6. *Continue discussion of future public events, including:*
- *Future winserts workshop? Public forum on energy issues?*
  - *Spring/Summer 2020 film series and/or discussion groups;*
  - *budget for events*
  - Plans for Earth Day informational event on hold: will depend on how things go with COVID-19
7. *Update on MVP Grant current and future; Hazard Mitigation Plan Update*
- Margaret reported back about status of 12 March final draft of Buckland's Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: at the moment, a public forum is planned for 6:30 p.m. on 07 April – to be recorded – followed by 2-week public comment period. (Because of COVID-19 precautions, meeting may not occur.)
8. *Report back about other meetings/ activities in which committee members participate.*
- None
9. *Other items not reasonably anticipated*
- Discussion of Gov. Baker's emergency order issued this morning.
10. *Choose facilitator and scribe for next meeting.*
- Tentatively April 15<sup>th</sup> via zoom 7:10 (Regular meetings discontinued while state of emergency in effect; during this time, meetings will be called & posted on an as-needed basis, and held teleconference.)
11. *Adjourn meeting*